GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1042
ANSWERED ON:02.03.2016
Alternative Train for Waitlisted Passengers
Chaudhary Shri P.P.;Gandhi Shri Dilip Kumar Mansukhlal;Kachhadia Shri Naranbhai;Kaushik Shri Ramesh Chander

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether waitlisted passengers are to be provided confirmed tickets in the next alternative train;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of passengers who will be impacted by this;

(c) the details of trains in which this facility is to be provided;

(d) whether the facility is to be provided for both online and offline bookings, and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether passengers will face lower availability of tickets in alternate trains due to this and the measures, if any, to counteract this, and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

(SHRI MANOJ SINHA)

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.
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STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1042 BY SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GHANDHI, SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY, SHRI RAMESH CHANDER KAUSHIK & SHRI NARANBHAI KACHHADIYA TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 02.03.2016 REGARDING ALTERNATIVE TRAIN FOR WAITLISTED PASSENGERS.

(a) to (c): With a view to provide confirmed accommodation to waitlisted passengers and, also, ensure optimal utilisation of available accommodation, the Alternate Train Accommodation Scheme known as 'VIKALP' has been introduced as a pilot project on Delhi − Jammu and Delhi − Lucknow sectors, initially for tickets booked through internet only. Salient features of this scheme are as under:-
(i) The scheme is presently applicable only across Mail/Express & Superfast trains.
(ii) Participation in this scheme is optional, i.e. only opting passengers who remain fully Waitlisted after charting are considered for allotment of berth(s) in the alternate train.
(iii) The scheme is applicable to all opting wait list passengers, irrespective of booking quota and concession.
(iv) Neither is any extra charge taken from passenger nor is any difference of fare refunded to them.
(v) If all passengers of a PNR cannot be provided accommodation under VIKALP, none are considered for transfer to the alternate train in same class. Passenger(s) are considered for confirmed accommodation on an alternate train leaving from any station amongst the cluster of stations defined by Railways to a station serving the destination station on the same analogy.

(vi) Passengers once provided accommodation in alternate train are just as eligible for up gradation as are passengers originally booked on the 'alternate' train.
(vii) If a 'VIKALP' opting passenger decides to cancel his/her ticket after he/she has been provided a confirmed reservation in an alternate train, he/she will be treated as a confirmed passenger and extant cancellation rules would be applicable.
(viii) Once a 'VIKALP' passenger has been allotted alternate accommodation, no modification in journey schedule is permissible.
(ix) During the period from 01.11.2015 to 18.02.2016, 5600 passengers had opted for this scheme.

(d) At present, this scheme has been provided in case of tickets booked through internet only as in this case the mobile number is invariably captured, which is necessary to intimate the passenger regarding allotment of accommodation in alternate train. However, introduction of schemes on pilot basis and their expansion based on feedback is a continuous and ongoing process.

(e): No, Madam. The passengers are being shifted against vacant accommodation in alternate train.
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